

NSC BRIEFING

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SUPREME SOVIET MEETING

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State Dept. review completed

- I. First session of newly elected Supreme Soviet meeting this morning.
 - A. Agenda includes approval of Khrushchev's MTS reorganization proposal and announcement of new Council of Ministers.
 - B. We expect some changes--there is widespread speculation that Premier Bulganin may be out.
 1. We have much evidence that his standing has dropped considerably in recent weeks. This is probably delayed punishment for his equivocal position in purge last June.
 - C. Possible successors include Kirichenko (Presidium member and Ukrainian, Khrushchev protégé), Kozlov (Presidium member and RSFSR premier), and Mikoyan (Armenian, long-time Presidium member and ~~First~~ Deputy Premier). All support Khrushchev.
 1. Outside chance Khrushchev himself may take over.
- II. Meeting would provide suitable forum for Soviet announcement of unilateral nuclear test moratorium. *Khrushchev scheduled to make statement on "cessation of tests of atomic and hydrogen weapons."*
 - A. We stated in Central Intelligence Bulletin of 24 March that this might be in offing.
 - B. Cables from Ambassador Thompson in last few days give support to this thesis.

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